

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

--As Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) show, in the present invention, a ceramic honeycomb structure has a plurality of through-holes (cells) 2 surrounded by partition walls 1. A thermal expansion coefficient in ~~an~~ a second outer circumferential wall portion 3 is made larger than that of ~~an~~ a first circumferential wall portion 6 and an inside partition wall portion 5 in a diameter of the ceramic honeycomb structure. The ceramic honeycomb structure is in the state that stress is applied to the first circumferential wall portion 6 and an inside partition wall portion 5 from the second outer circumferential wall portion 3.--